

The Clarion Celebrates International Women's Day

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50¢

Toronto Clarion



Wife Battering
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Women's Day biggest ever

by Audrey Mehler, Barb Taylor and Jew Mayseung

A week-long celebration of International Women's Day culminated with the biggest demonstration the organizers have seen yet.

About 6,000 people, nearly all women, marched along Bloor Street chanting peace and feminist slogans like hey ho ho, Cruise missile's got to go," and "Hey hey, what do you say, we march for women's rights today."

"We're getting bigger every year," said Mariana Valverde, a member of the March 8th Coalition which organized the events.

The main speaker, Wiesia Kolasinska, called for full employment, safe and healthy workplaces, an end to wage controls and accessible legal abortion clinics.

She added, "A nuclear war would end all our rights and choices ... We say loudly, adamantly, No to the Cruise, Refuse the Cruise!"

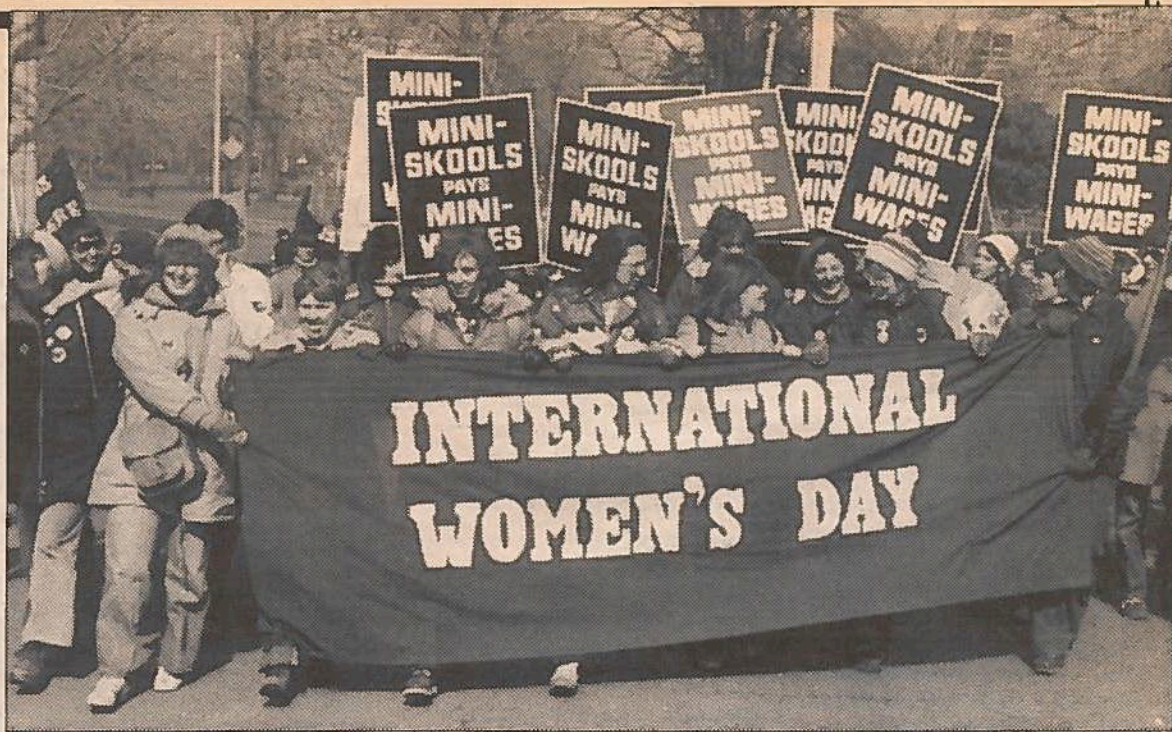
Kolasinska urged Canadian women to support their sisters around the world in their struggles for national

liberation. "There can be no peace, no justice, until all peoples have gained the freedom to live their lives in dignity."

In the week leading up to the demonstration, these themes were explored in depth at three forums. At the Women's Liberation and Abortion forum, speakers pointed out that 72 per cent of Canadians support abortion, but that hospital quotas, doctors opting out of OHIP and the resultant high cost make abortions inaccessible to women.

"In a society where women are economically and socially exploited, where women make up the majority of the poor, where women carry the major responsibility for child care, where women are raped and beaten, abortion is a crucial right," said Connie Guberman of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics.

Said Diane Meridith of Lesbians against the Right, "We women have not been in the driver's seat of that basic structure affecting us, our bodies." Referring to both abortion and sexual prefer-



ence, she said "It is her body and she has a right to choose."

The second forum was called Women's Liberation and the Fight against Wage Controls, Concessions and Unemployment. Donna Segeyn, formerly a crane operator for Stelco, said "The trade union movement is the only way for men and women to organize against society."

Prabha Kholsa, an organizer among East Indian women workers, pointed out that organizing women requires taking into account the different conditions of workers.

She said immigrant women are hired specifically because they have poor English skills, are uninformed about their labour rights and are thus easily exploited.

At the third forum, called Women's Liberation, Disarmament and Anti-imperialism, speakers said the liberation of women is inseparable from national liberation struggles and from the peace movement.

Nigisti Hintsa of the National Union of Eritrean Women said, "The African woman is doubly, sometimes triply exploited by colonialism, neo-colonialism and tradition ... the South African woman is exploited as a woman, a worker and as a black person."

Nahalab Abdo of the League of Arab Democrats and Fely Villasin of the Coalition against the Marcos Dictatorship in the Philippines said that women all over the world are fighting the same struggle. Villasin said that in

El Salvador, women are paid 25 per cent less than men in factories, and in the Philippines, women are paid 46 per cent less than men. "Born and raised to be objects of pleasure or slaves for labour, women are now at the heart of all struggles, open or underground."

Margaret Hancock of Women for Survival pointed out that violence against women is linked to global violence: "As women are threatened by rape, so is the world threatened and exploited by the use of the bomb."

Hancock said in order to fight these interrelated struggles, people must support each other: "Single issue groups can lead only to reform. Linkage of these groups can lead to radical social change ... The Peace movement must deal with women's liberation, racism, sexism and imperialism. We must consciously seek the fertile common ground between them."

From page 2

Litton; the 27 arrested on August 6, 1982; the 36 charged at the April 8, 1982 demonstration; the 24 arrested at the November 11, 1981 Remembrance Day action; and the 13 on April, 1981. Meanwhile Litton Systems continues to violate section 79 of the Criminal Code,



treasonous activity against the Canadian public, and yet no judge has complied with the charge laid by various citizens against Litton by issuing a summons.

By what authority does Litton manufacture the guidance component for the Cruise nuclear missile/drone; after all, this is not U.S. territory, is it? The mandateless federal government has provided a \$22 million loan for that bomb and Parliament has not taken into consideration the majority of Canadians who oppose even the testing of Reagan's new war toy.

The only real authority in Canada, the people, are being ignored, arrested and impri-

soned for our willingness to exercise sovereign national rights. Really, what further justification need there be to bomb the bomb? Let that be called anarchism but only those who are unable to distinguish between property and people would call it terrorism.

Abie Weisfeld
Toronto

Eugenics

To the Clarion,

We [in Japan] are now confronting the Eugenic Protection Law Amendment. Congressman Mr. M. Murakami, the leader of a big religious group, is trying to cross out Article 14-4, the article that has allowed women to have legal abortions for economic reasons for the last 34 years. Now, the group is trying to take the last choice for

women away. Along with that, they also want an amendment to the Constitution, Article 9 (Renunciation of War).

Mr. Murakami quotes Mother Teresa's words, "respect human lives," and uses them for his destructive purposes. He states that killing unborn babies is against humanity and that we should protect the blood of our Japanese nation from extermination, and in the same breath, he says that killing and dying in war is beautiful devotion to his own country. The group plans to invite Mrs. Reagan to Japan for its "Save Little Lives" campaign.

EPL 14-4 Amendment will most likely pass Congress next May or even earlier. Forty-eight women's groups have organized the Stop EPL 14-4 Amendment Group, taking actions such as holding conferences, demonstrations, signature-collecting, and sending in a petition to local assemblies. We are calling for women's support internationally. Send us information on abortion laws, messages, donations and write letters to the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare. Any action will be supportive and appreciated.

We will not stop fighting back until the day we abolish both the Abortion Law and the Eugenic Protection Act

which denies the right of women and disabled people.

Please write to MOHW to protest: Mental Health Division, Ministry of Health and Welfare, 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda, Tokyo 100, Japan.

In sisterhood,
Chiyuki Tada (L.F. Centre)
Stop EPL 14-4 Amendment Group
c/o JOKI,
Green Mansion D,
1-10 Wakaba, Shinjuku,
Tokyo, Japan



Bobby Broccoli delighted kids at the Food Fair for the new Co-op Supermarket. Phone Larry at 363-2061 for information.

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Toronto Clarion Women's Directory

selling, referral. Emphasis on re-establishing teens in trouble. Catholic service. No abortion counselling. Capacity: 30.

Evangeline Residence (Salvation Army)
2808 Dundas St. West,
Toronto M6P 1Y5
762-9636 (weekdays 9-5)

For single women 16-60. Residence (boarding home-type care), meals provided. Six emergency beds for short-term stay. Capacity: 40.

Emily Stowe Shelter for Women
21 Brimley Rd.,
Scarborough M1M 3H3
264-4357

Provides emergency shelter for assaulted women and children. Supportive counselling and referral. Maximum stay: six weeks.

Family Residence
674 Dundas St. West,
Toronto M5T 1H9
363-8475

Emergency housing, mostly families and couples, some single women. Length of stay depends on number of children. Food, shelter, clothing, some referral. Must be Canadian citizen or landed.

Interim Place
475 Lakeshore Boulevard
West, Toronto M5L 1A3
271-1860

Emergency housing for women with children, serves Peel region. Length of stay: two to six weeks. Services same as Interval House. Capacity: 18.

Interval House
596 Huron St., Toronto
M5R 2R7 924-1491

Emergency housing for women with

Peggy's (Walpole House)
295 Sherbourne St.,
Toronto M5A 2R9
923-5266

Emergency housing for single women 16 and up. Length of stay: 2 weeks. Shelter, food, basic referral. Capacity: 30.

Scadding Court Sistering Program
707 Dundas St. W
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 2W6 366-0001 Karen

A daytime drop-in centre for women living in hostels. Free coffee, crafts, etc. Open 9-3 p.m.

Stop 86
86 Madison Ave., Toronto
M5R 2S4 922-3271

Emergency shelter for single women 16-25. Maximum stay: 6 weeks. Emergency shelter: 3 days. Counselling, workshops on employment, housing, health, crisis intervention, advocacy, referral, food and shelter. Capacity: 25.

Streethaven
87 Pembroke St., Toronto
M5A 2M9 967-6060

Emergency housing for single women age 16 up. Length of stay: 2 weeks. Crisis intervention, shelter and drop-in for women with problems with the law, drugs or alcohol. Informal counselling, referral, parole and probation, court assistance, food, clothing and shelter services. Capacity: 10.

Toronto Community Hostel
191 Spadina Rd., Toronto
M5R 2T9 925-4431

Emergency housing for families, couples, singles. Can accommodate 2 families, 2-3 couples. Maximum stay: 5 days. Meals, shelter, some referral, counselling. Capacity: 17.

Women in Transition
143 Spadina Rd., Toronto
M5R 2T1 967-5227

Emergency housing for women with children. Maximum stay: 6 weeks. Services same as Interval House. Capacity: 18.

Women's Habitat
149 Stanley Ave., Toronto
M8V 1N8 252-5829

Emergency housing for women with children from Etobicoke or Southern Peel (others if space available). Maximum stay: 6 weeks. Services same as Interval House. Capacity: 28.

Yellow Brick House
487 Eagle St., Newmarket
L3Y 1K7 898-3842

Emergency housing for women with children (serves York area). Maximum stay: 6 weeks. Services same as Interval House.

Sole-Support Women

Family Benefits Work Group
960-0258

Sole-support mothers and other activists working to educate and organize for social change. Referrals, information and advocacy offered. Runs annual children's coat campaign. Volunteers encouraged to learn and share skills. Daycare and TTC provided for activities, office work and meetings.

Sole-Support Mothers Group
65 Belshaw Place,
Toronto M5A 3H6 (outside door next to lobby)
Nancy Van Der Plaats

Regent Park and area sole-support mothers' group opposed to proposed changes in legislation that would further oppress mothers on family benefits or welfare. Meetings offer sole-support mothers an opportunity to meet each other and work together to lessen the effects the system has on us. Wednesdays, 1:15 to 3:15 p.m.

Sole-Support Parents Coalition
c/o Scarborough Community Legal Services, 695
Markham Rd., Suite 9,
Scarborough M1H 2A5
438-7182 Catharine Berry

Opposed to the transfer of sole-support parents from family benefits to welfare.

Focus on Change-YWCA Women's Development Centre 961-8100

Program for sole-support mothers receiving social assistance. Helping women achieve personal and economic independence through life skills and academic upgrading.

Umbrella Groups

Congress of Canadian Women

National: Box 188 Stn. E,
Toronto M6H 4E2
767-7330
Toronto Chapter: 924
King St. West, Toronto
M5V 1P5 463-3187

Since 1950. Struggling for equality, women's rights, international solidarity and peace.

International Women's Day Committee
P.O. Box 70, Stn. F.,
Toronto M4Y 2L4
979-2319 Shelley Gordon

The IWDC is a socialist-feminist organization. It plays a major role in organizing the annual celebration of International Women's Day in Toronto. Over the past four years the committee has become more and more involved in the struggles of working class women for the right to organize and strike, for equal pay, abortion on demand, decent social assistance payments, free universal daycare, lesbian rights and to end all forms of sexual abuse and harassment. IWDC also supports other progressive movements such as the anti-racist movement.

National Action Committee on the Status of Women
40 St. Clair Ave. East,
Toronto M4T 1L7
922-3246

Voluntary feminist organization working to improve the status of women in Canada. Consists of more than 230 non-governmental women's groups across the country.

Violence against Women

Metro Toronto Family Services: Counselling for Battering Men
Dufferin Mall, 900 Dufferin St. Toronto M6H 4E7
532-2869 David Curry
Counselling for men, couples, individuals and groups.

Rape Crisis Centre
P.O. Box 6597, Stn. A,
Toronto M5W 1X4
Crisis Line: 964-8080
(24 hours)
Business Line: 964-7477

Counselling, information and support for sexual assault victims through medical and legal procedures if desired. Offers 6-week self-defense course. Advocacy group on all women's issues, especially on violence against women. Public education on violence against women.

Support Services for Assaulted Women
427 Bloor St. W. Toronto
M5S 1X7 968-3422 Leslie

Consulting agency working in the area of assaulted women. Education workshops and referrals to support groups.

Women Against Violence Against Women (WAW)
P.O. Box 251 Stn. D,
Toronto M6P 3J8

Committed to action from a feminist perspective against violence against women.

Women and Children

Action Daycare
19 Carr St., Toronto
M5T 2V7 362-1033

Political action group working toward quality, universal, free daycare.

Creating Together
Parkdale
1624 Queen St. West
(rear) Toronto M6R 1B2
537-1004 Maralyn or Linda

Drop-in centre for parents and preschool children. Activities include classes for children, dance. Coffee and children's snacks, newsletter.

Jessie's
154 Bathurst St., Toronto
M5V 2R3 365-1888

Assistance to women aged 18 or younger. Drop-in with nursery Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Counselling, pre-and post-natal classes. Clothing and furniture exchange. Educational programs.

Mothers Place
Cowan Ave. Firehall
Community Centre
224 Cowan Ave., Toronto
M6K 2N6 531-1564

A drop-in for parents and children. Movies, seminars on parenting and of general interest to parents and children. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Scadding Court Alternate Childcare
707 Dundas St. West,
Toronto M5T 2W6
864-0951 Linda

Short term emergency daycare. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. Fee: 50 cents or free. Please phone one day in advance.

Women and the Law

Citizens' Independent Review of Police Activities (CIRPA)
c/o Alderman Jack Layton, City Hall, Toronto
Hotline: 960-6318
24 hours

Assists people who are alleging abuse on the part of the police, including lesbians and women who allege police harassment while reporting sexual assault. Supported by the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre.

Elizabeth Fry Society
215 Wellesley St. E.,
Toronto M4X 1G1
924-3708

Counselling and information for women who are or have been in conflict with the law.

Women's Counselling, Referral and Education Centre
348 College St., Toronto
M5T 1S4 924-0766
(1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, taped message at other times)

Referral counselling for women seeking non-sexist assistance. Legal and housing advice.

Women, Peace and Liberation

Voice of Women
175 Carleton St., Toronto
M5A 2K3 922-2997
Dorothy Smieciuch

A non-partisan, non-profit organization working for a world without war. Monthly meetings. All women welcome.

Women's Action for Peace
1 Thorndale Ave.,
Toronto M8X 1W6 233-6507, 534-2813
Tricia Murphy

Making connections between militarism and women's oppression. Involved in forms of political action. A feminist peace movement.

Women for Survival
c/o Trinity United Church,
427 Bloor St. West
Toronto M5S 1X7 534-2714 Margaret Hancock

Feminist anti-nuclear group with focus on educating women on the hazards of nuclear power and weapons.

Women's Committee of the Liberation of Southern Africa (TCLSA)
427 Bloor St. West,
Toronto M5S 1X7
536-3781 Eden Anderson

Resource centre on women in liberation struggles of Third World countries; stresses Southern Africa. Holds public forums on women in Southern Africa.



children who are at risk. Length of stay: one week to two months. Co-operative residential crisis centre for sole-support mothers and children. Shelter, food, support, counselling, referral, childcare, information, follow-up services. Capacity: 22.

Nellie's
275A Broadview Ave.
Toronto M4M 2G8
461-1084

Emergency housing for single women and women with children age 6 and up, for 2-week stay (or possible 3-week stay for women with children). Counselling, referral, crisis intervention, advocacy, shelter, food, and clothing services. Capacity: 29.

Rich radical made credible

Women & Children First by Michele Landsberg MacMillan of Canada Ltd. 239 pages, hardcover

Reviewed by Sally McBeth

Michele Landsberg has it all. She lives in a house that overlooks a ravine, a location that can only mean affluence to a Torontonian. The house is warmed by her long marriage to loveable social democrat Stephen Lewis, her nice kids she brought up right, her affection for cats, her enthusiasm for Jewish cooking.

It is because of all this, not in spite of it, that Michele Landsberg has something else. She has a job as a crusading columnist for the *Toronto Star*. She's the only feminist in the city who can daily confront a readership of thousands with the

ugly injustices of this man-on-top world.

Landsberg exasperates a lot of radical feminists. "Sometimes she can be so magnificent," a friend said recently, darkly implying that sometimes she could be really bad.

She can indeed be magnificent. In her columns on battering, rape and harassment on the job her rage builds magnificently, but she grounds it in solid research that explodes the old myths. Landsberg's columns can take you firmly by the chin and force you to face outrageous facts.

And then she can dribble on for paragraphs about a neighbour's cute cat, or the repairmen who fray her nerves by not coming on time to fix the freezer in the house which, as every Torontonian understands,

overlooks a ravine.

This vacillation is, of course, what makes her so successful. 'See, I'm not a scary feminist,' she is saying on her cute cat days. 'I'm a bosomy matron.' And then on other days, she'll have you by the chin again while she says: "This is Em's job: for eight and a half hours Monday to Thursday and six hours on Friday, Em stands by a conveyor belt in a steady 42 degree Fahrenheit chill, trimming the fat off pork necks ... her hands are all twisted and swollen at the joints from 23 years of handling cold, wet meat at Canada Packers on St. Clair Ave. West."

Landsberg has a sure-fire technique. She knows that writing articles about giving up chain smoking at forty in an expensive California health retreat will make the Ems of the

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST MICHELE LANDSBERG



A provocative look at modern Canadian women at work and at home

Feminist singers perform like old pros

by Jew Mayseung

The Red Berets, a group of socialist feminist singers, had the audience at the International Women's Day rally in the palm of their hands.

The 2,000-strong audience roared with laughter at the slick choreography and smooth 50s style melodies of Teen Angel, an acerbic satire on growing up in the age of bobby socks and cashmere sweaters: "Swearing and sex tales were mortal sins, why the hell do you think we brought the 60s in? ... The KKK remember the good old days, when blacks and women knew their place."

And the audience fell silent when they sang, "Before we had a movement to call our own, we were fighting one by one ... Oh my sister, be strong,

you know you'll never change the world without fighting. For the sake of ourselves and our daughters, it's time to join the band."

From their polished performances at many demonstrations and picket lines, it's difficult to believe the Red Berets have operated with minimal structure and maximum informality since their inception.

Three years ago, members of the International Women's Day Committee decided to provide some musical entertainment to lighten the celebration. An ad hoc group was formed.

"We didn't know it would last. It just took off," says Red Berets member Karen Wehrstein.

They don't have problems deciding which demonstration

to attend because, as Wehrstein explains, "If they didn't like us, they wouldn't invite us."

Decision-making is by consensus and any woman can join. No one's ever been turned away because they can't sing. "All the ones we get seem to be able to carry a tune," says Wehrstein.

The group includes academics, workers, students, lesbians, straights, members of the Women's Press, the Cruise Missile Conversion Project, Citizens' Independent Review of Police Activities, etc.

Even their name was arrived at by chance. The group had been wearing distinctive red berets (for some "revolutionary colour") and going nameless for a while. At a demonstration at City Hall one day someone asked, "Where's the Red Berets?" and the name stuck.

Do they have secret showbiz yearnings? "We don't have any musical ambition. We're not professional musicians, we just like doing it," says Wehrstein.

"It's great to do something that's political and fun. It's a perfect combination."

world love her. They'll even write her encouraging letters — 'Keep up the fight, Michele, I gave up at 58' — those kind of letters. And because she is a beloved newspaper personality, she knows she can talk hard and straight sometimes about the Ems of this world — and be listened to.

Landsberg is important because she can be a powerful, compelling popularizer of feminist ideas. *Radical feminist* ideas. If she is sometimes resented by radical feminists, perhaps it is because we need her so badly. Her sensitive, unsentimental portraits of women helping women have shamed many a reluctant government agency into cutting the red tape that was quietly strangling a grass roots service. A column by Landsberg can mean the success or failure of a fundraising campaign. We resent her because her power to save our funding reminds us just how precarious and threatened our services are.

We resent her as well because her need for 'credibility' prevents her from crediting radical feminists with the ideas she sells to the public. In the introduction to her book, a collection of columns from the last three years, she produces a complicated metaphor to get around this.

On the "left bank" she places the "sharp and fiery" radical feminists, with whom she "parted company forever"

when she was "ensconced in my marriage home with babies." (Really? Why?)

On the "right bank" are the women who refuse to acknowledge feminism at all, "grazing peacefully in those green pastures, quite removed — they think" — a cow metaphor which, I respect Landsberg enough to believe, will shame her one day.

Herself she places in the middle, on a "riverine", the fertile, oozy zone between the two banks, where, presumably, truly creative thought takes place.

This is false and pretentious. A more honest woman would merely have said: 'I sit on the fence until I can come to terms with startling new theories.'

Landsberg owes her ideas, as we all do, to the radicals. These women are strapped to the rock; they bear the brunt of the hatred and ridicule for us while they say the things Landsberg can afford to mull over in the safety of her hearth. She ought to have the sisterhood to say that right out.

About half of Landsberg's book is original writing, and here she steps beyond the narrow margins of the daily column and into her own, sometimes exceptional way of telling.

There is a passage about breast feeding that a better society will recognize as classic literature. There is her fierce, earnest funniness as she tries to tell her bewildered toddlers about physical love before the world can bewilder them worse.

There is the Kaddish she writes after mother dies. Landsberg's huge grief and powerful writing obliterate the banal newsclippings about the death of an old lady in a house fire. She illuminates her mother's life, makes her magnificent again.

The *Star* will never have the room to accommodate the soaring generosity that, in spite of occasional cowardice, is Michele Landsberg. I hope she writes more books.



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